

CITY OF MEMPHIS, SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE
MEMPHIS CHARTER COMMISSION MEETING
July 30, 2008

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Lowery called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. The following members of the Board, constituting a quorum, were present: Willie Brooks, George Brown Jr., Marsha Campbell, Sylvia Cox and Myron Lowery. Janice Fullilove and Sharon Webb were absent.

Others in attendance: Ricky E. Wilkins, Law Offices of Ricky E. Wilkins; among others.

MINUTES: Chairman Lowery noted that copies of the minutes from the Board's meeting of June 19th and July 10th, 2008 had been circulated prior to the meeting and asked if there were any changes or corrections. With no changes to the June 19th minutes, they were approved as presented. The July 10th minutes were approved with exceptions that corrections be made on pages 1, and 2 as noted by Commissioner Cox and Attorney Wilkins.

OPEN DISCUSSION: After briefly discussing compensation for future Charter Commissioners, the discussion was postponed until later.

DISCUSSION ON AG OPINION AND COUNCIL APPROVAL

Attorney Wilkins recapped his discussion with City Council Attorney Allen Wade concerning the Charter Commission's work. Wilkins opined that the work of the Charter Commission could be submitted to the Council and published without 3 readings.

Next, Commissioner Brown made a motion pursuant to the State Constitution, that the Commissioners follow Steve Lobertini with MTAS and Attorney Wilkins recommendation to present the Charter Commission's work to City Council without 3 readings. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brooks. A discussion followed.

The Chairman called for the vote and the voting was as follows:

Myron Lowery	Aye
Willie Brooks	Aye
George Brown	Aye
Marsha Campbell	Aye
Sylvia Cox	Aye
Janis Fullilove	Absent
Sharon Webb	Absent

The motion passed unanimously by all members present.

In addition to the above vote, Commissioner Campbell suggested further discussion at the next meeting on the possibility of the Charter Commission work being challenged by City Council should be an agenda item.

Next, the discussion continued on compensation for future Charter Commissioners. It was decided by the Commissioners to vote at the August 14th meeting on the qualification, timetable, and compensation for their successors.

DISCUSSION ON PARTTIME JUDGES

Commissioner Campbell requested their previous vote not to add 2 part or additional full time judges to the City's Charter be reconsidered. Chairman Brown objected. The discussion was tabled by Commissioner Campbell to be continued at the next meeting.

DISCUSSION ON CHARTER PROVISION TO PREVENT CITY COUNCIL BY ORDINANCE TO ALTER THE POWER OF THE MAYOR

Chairman Lowery noted City Council does not have authority to alter the powers of the Mayor by ordinance. After much discussion, Chairman Lowery stated they will continue their discussion on the matter and vote on a referendum that prohibits City Council from altering the powers of the mayor by means of referendums at their next meeting.

DISCUSSION OF REFERENDUM ITEMS FOR NOVEMBER BALLOT

Attorney Wilkins noted via-email that draft copies of the proposed referendum items were sent to the Commissioners and also stated, he's in the process of finalizing the format in which the documents should be presented to City Council. The Commissioners will vote to accept the referendums at their August 14th meeting. In closing, Chairman Lowery asked Mr. Wilkins to provide in writing recommendations for handling staggered terms from the Attorney representing the Shelby County Election Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Cox suggested at their August 14th meeting they discuss campaign fundraising and language in the Charter as it relates to the recall of the mayor.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Chairman Lowery thanked everyone for attending and stated that the next meeting dates are August 14, and 21 at 3:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Bridgett Handy-Clay